

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please delete the ABSTRACT and insert the following:

A system of parsing unstructured or partially structured data is provided, specifically including name and address data in any language or script. The system processes at least portions of the data in an incremental manner, preferably using multiple parsing steps, with each parsing step performed by consulting an inference engine which uses an inference strategy. A knowledge base is used with the inference engine to analyze data at one or more levels of analysis. The knowledge base can optionally include a lexico-grammatical analysis level, and orthographic level, a semantic level, a contextual level.